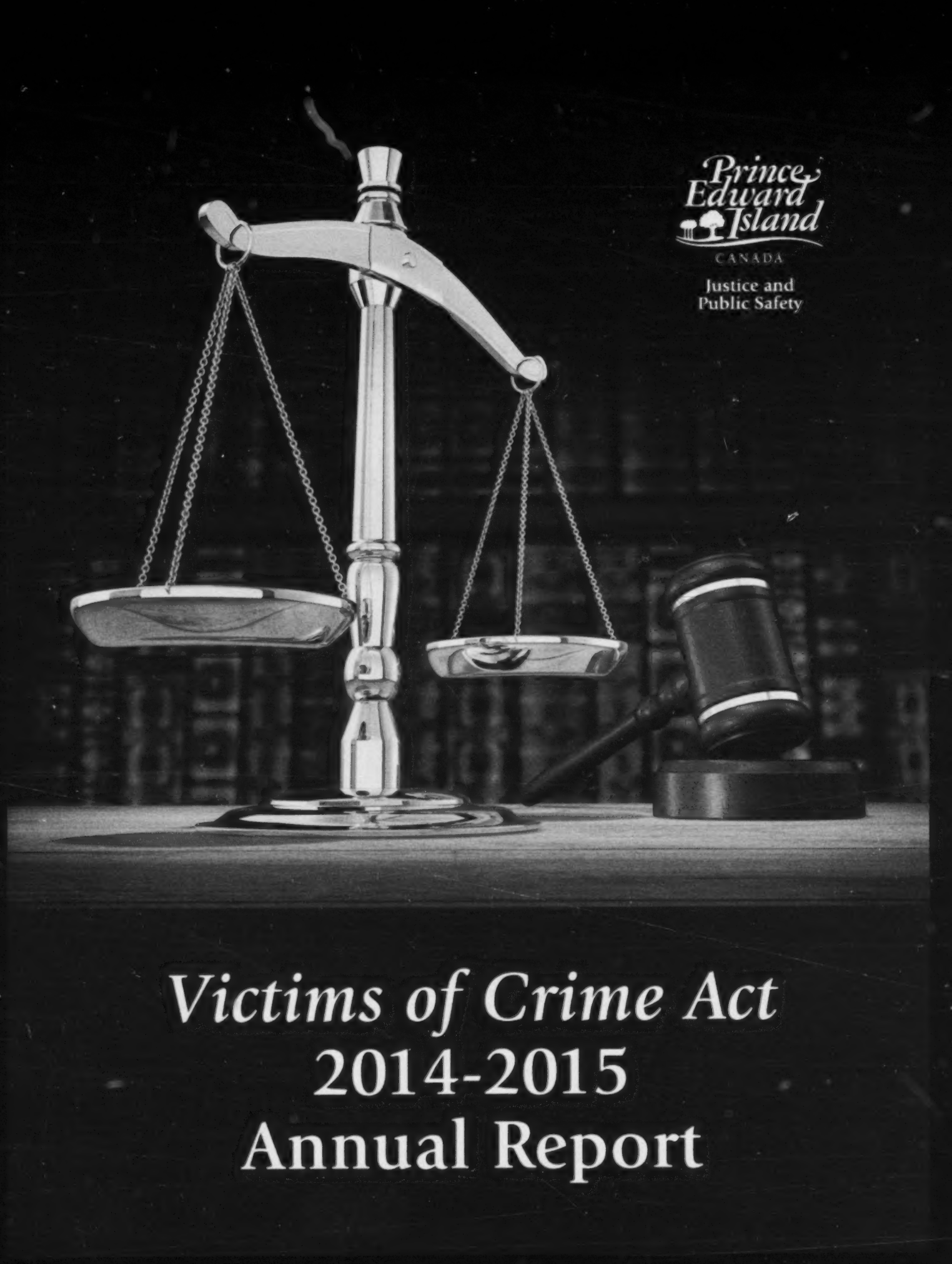

Prince Edward Island
CANADA
Justice and Public Safety

Victims of Crime Act
2014-2015
Annual Report

Twenty-sixth Annual Report

Victims of Crime Act
R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. V-3.1

April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Prince Edward Island Department of Justice and Public Safety
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Justice and Public Safety

Justice et Sécurité publique

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September 2015

The Honourable H. Frank Lewis
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Prince Edward Island

May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the administration of the Victims of Crime Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. V-3.1 pursuant to section 36 of the Act, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade MacLauchlan
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
and Attorney General

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Executive Summary

Trends in Client Demand

- There were 762 new cases referred to Victim Services in 2014-2015, in addition to approximately 622 cases carried forward from the previous year. As of March 31, 2015, there were 491 active cases across the province. The average monthly caseload in 2014-2015 was 560 cases.
- In 2014-2015, there were 131 victim impact statements prepared and filed with the court. Over the past five years, the number of victim impact statements filed has ranged from 151 to 262.
- During the fiscal year 2014-2015, 25 new applications for criminal injuries compensation were filed, and 106 applications were carried over from the previous year. Fifty eight final decisions and twelve interim decisions were made in 2014-2015. A total of $208,570 was awarded in criminal injuries compensation.
- In 2014-2015, there were 49 applications for Emergency Protection Orders under the *Victims of Family Violence Act*, and one application for a Victim Assistance Order. Since the proclamation of the Act in December 1996, there have been a total of 766 Emergency Protection Orders granted.

Offence Type and Offender Information

- The most frequent types of crime for Victim Services cases in 2014-2015 were:
  - assault (36 percent)
  - theft (12 per cent)
  - uttering threats (10 per cent)
  - sexual assault (8 per cent)
  - wilful damage (5 per cent)
- Of the total new referrals to Victim Services in 2014-2015, there was a family type relationship between the victim and the suspect or offender in 194 cases (27 %). In 206 cases (28%), the suspect or offender was a male partner or ex-partner (either current or former husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend). In 14 cases (2%), the suspect or offender was a female partner or ex-partner (either current or former wife, common-law wife or girlfriend).

Highlights and Initiatives:

- In April 2014, Victim Services received a Humanitarian Award from the Psychological Association of Prince Edward Island in recognition of "commitment and endeavours that have significantly enhanced the psychological health and well-being of Islanders".
- With funding support from the Federal Victims Fund, a five month Restitution Coordinator Pilot Project was initiated to improve processes that assist victims to obtain restitution.
- Additional funds were allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program in 2014-2015, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of claims awaiting adjudication.
- Ongoing efforts to address the needs of victims of sexual abuse included:
  - assisting in an advisory capacity to the implementation of a group program for male survivors of sexual abuse;
  - assisting in the development of Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services which includes enhanced training and protocols for health care providers in emergency room departments; and
  - participating in an advisory capacity to the *RESPECT Project: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in PEI*.
- Efforts continued to strengthen linkages with minority and multicultural groups, including awareness raising initiatives in partnership with newcomer, francophone and aboriginal communities; and participation in a project *"Supporting Immigrant Women and Girls Experiencing Violence"*.

Sommaire

Tendances de la demande des clients

- En 2014-2015, 762 nouveaux cas ont été transmis au Service d'aide aux victimes, en plus d'environ 622 cas reportés de l'année précédente. En date du 31 mars 2015, il y avait 491 cas actifs dans la province. En moyenne, la charge de travail était de 560 cas par mois.

- En 2014-2015, le Service d'aide aux victimes a aidé à préparer et à déposer 131 déclarations de victime. Au cours des cinq dernières années, le nombre de déclarations de victime déposées a varié de 151 à 262.

- Durant l'exercice financier 2014-2015, 25 nouvelles demandes d'indemnisation des actes criminels ont été déposées, 106 ont été reportées de l'exercice précédent et 58 décisions sans appel ainsi que 12 décisions provisoires ont été rendues. Un montant total de 208 570 $ a été adjugé en indemnisation de victimes d'actes criminels.

- En 2014-2015, on a rendu 49 ordonnances de protection d'urgence dans le cadre de la *Victims of Family Violence Act* (loi sur les victimes de violence familiale) et une ordonnance d'aide aux victimes. Depuis la proclamation de la loi en décembre 1996, 766 ordonnances de protection d'urgence ont été rendues au total

Types d'infractions et renseignements sur les contrevenants

- Les types de crime les plus fréquents dans les causes traitées par le Service d'aide aux victimes en 2014-2015 ont été les suivants :
  - o voies de fait (36 pour cent)
  - o vols (12 pour cent)
  - o profération de menaces (10 pour cent)
  - o agressions sexuelles (8 pour cent)
  - o avaries faites avec intention (5 pour cent)

- Dans 194 cas (soit 27 pour cent des nouveaux cas transmis en 2014-2015), il y avait une relation familiale entre la victime et le suspect ou le contrevenant. Dans 206 cas (soit 28 pour cent des cas), le suspect ou le contrevenant était un partenaire ou un ex-partenaire mâle (soit le mari actuel ou l'ex-mari, le conjoint de fait ou le petit ami). Dans 14 cas (soit 2 pour cent des cas), la suspecte ou la contrevenante était une partenaire ou une ex-partenaire (soit la femme actuelle ou l'ex-femme, la conjointe de fait ou la petite amie).

Faits saillants et initiatives

- En avril 2014, la Psychological Association of Prince Edward Island a remis un prix humanitaire au Service d'aide aux victimes en reconnaissance des efforts qui permettent d'améliorer la santé psychologique et le mieux-être des Insulaires de façon continue.

- Grâce à l'appui financier du Fonds d'aide aux victimes fédéral, un projet pilote de cinq mois a retenu des services de coordination pour améliorer les processus qui aident les victimes à obtenir du dédommagement.

- Des fonds supplémentaires ont été attribués au programme d'indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels en 2014-2015, ce qui a considérablement réduit le nombre de demandes en attente de traitement.

- Dans le cadre des efforts soutenus visant à répondre aux besoins des victimes de violence sexuelle, le Service d'aide aux victimes a notamment :
  - o joué un rôle consultatif dans la livraison d'un programme destiné aux hommes victimes de traumatismes sexuels;

- appuyé le développement d'un programme amélioré de services d'urgence aux victimes d'agression sexuelle visant à établir de meilleurs protocoles et à offrir de la formation aux fournisseurs de soins de santé qui travaillent dans les services d'urgence;
- joué un rôle consultatif dans le projet RESPECT (mesures de lutte contre la violence sexuelle à l'Île).

- Les efforts visant à renforcer les liens avec les groupes minoritaires et multiculturels se sont poursuivis. Des initiatives de sensibilisation ont été mises sur pied en collaboration avec les communautés francophone et autochtone de l'Île ainsi qu'avec les nouveaux arrivants. En outre, le Service d'aide aux victimes a participé au projet *Supporting Immigrant Women and Girls Experiencing Violence* (soutien pour les immigrantes victimes de violence).

Part I

Introduction

The *Victims of Crime Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap.V-3.1 was proclaimed in force September 30, 1989. Regulations and orders under the act also came into force on that date. Extensive amendments to the act came into effect August 7, 1999.

The Statement of Principles contained in Part I of the *Victims of Crime Act* sets out the following principles for the guidance of persons in providing justice for victims of crime:

a) Victims should be treated with courtesy and compassion and with respect for their dignity, privacy, and convenience.

b) Victims should receive prompt and fair financial redress for the harm they have suffered.

c) Victims should be informed of and should have access to services including social, medical, legal, and mental health assistance.

d) Victims should be informed about the progress of the investigation and prosecution of the offence, court procedures, the role of the victim in court proceedings, and the ultimate disposition of the proceedings.

e) Victims are entitled, where their personal interests are affected, to have their views and concerns brought to the attention of the court where consistent with criminal law and procedure.

f) Victims and their families should be protected from intimidation, retaliation, and harassment.

g) Victims should have their stolen property returned to them as soon as possible after recovery by law enforcement authorities.

h) Victims are entitled to prepare a victim impact statement and have it considered by the court at sentencing.

i) Victims are entitled to be informed about the offender's status, including release dates, parole eligibility, and probation terms.

The *Victims of Crime Act* also establishes the Victim Services Advisory Committee, the Victim Services Program, the Victim Assistance Fund, and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program.

Part II
Report of the Victim Services Advisory Committee

Committee Mandate

The Victim Services Advisory Committee is established under *Victims of Crime Act* with the mandate to:

a) review existing laws, policies and procedures and recommend changes to benefit victims;

b) assist law enforcement agencies, social agencies and other organizations with the development of guidelines that promote the principles set out in this *Act* relating to their role in respect of victims;

c) assist with establishing and updating procedures for the handling of complaints by victims;

d) assist with the research, development and distribution of information pertaining to the needs, rights and concerns of victims;

e) provide opportunities for research, discussion, and resolution of issues of concern to victims; and

f) advise on other matters that the Minister may refer to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee may make recommendations to the Minister relating to:

a) the development of policies and legislation respecting assistance to victims;

b) the provision of services, including criminal injuries compensation, to victims; and

c) any other matters that the Minister refers to the Committee for its recommendation.

Committee Membership and Meetings

Members of the Victim Services Advisory Committee as of March 31, 2015, and the organizations they represent are as follows:

David Daughton	Community Legal Information Association
Cathy Chaisson	Law Society of Prince Edward Island
Jeff MacDonald	Crown Attorneys
Ellie Reddin	P.E.I. Rape and Sexual Assault Centre
Gary Trainor	Probation Services
Deputy Chief Sinclair Walker	P.E.I. Association of Chiefs of Police
Sgt. Paul Gagne	R.C.M.P. "L" Division
Phil Matusiewicz	PEI Family Violence Prevention Inc.
Kathy Jenkins	PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada
Judy Turpin	Court Services
Michelle Gill	Aboriginal Community
Melissa Arsenault	Francophone Community
Maureen MacEwen	Child and Family Services

The Committee is assisted in its operations by the Victim Services Provincial Manager and Secretary. The Director of Justice Policy and Privacy Services Division, Department of Justice and Public Safety and the Adjudicator for Criminal Injury Compensation with Legal Services Division also provide assistance and information to the committee.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Victim Services Advisory Committee held meetings in October and November. The Committee was co-chaired by Lori St. Onge and Paula Finkle until the expiry of their terms, followed by Diane Kays as Interim Chair. The activities of the Committee during 2014-2015 included the following:

Proposed Canadian Victims Bill of Rights

On April 3rd, 2014, the Federal government tabled the Victims Bill of Rights Act (VBR) that establishes statutory rights at the federal level for victims of crime. These include rights to information, protection, participation and restitution. The Bill also provides for a complaint process. The Committee followed the progress of proposed legislation, and considered implications for the province.

Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act

The Committee also received information about the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* which came into force December 16, 2013. The Act provides on-reserve communities with rights and protections in relation to the family home and division of on-reserve matrimonial interests, that were previously unavailable to them. Under the legislation, First Nations can either choose to follow the federal rules or choose to enact their own laws related to matrimonial real property rights and interests and emergency protection orders. There is a 12 month transitional period for First Nations to introduce their own regimes or adopt the federal rules. First Nations in PEI are currently deciding how they wish to proceed. A Committee has been established to prepare for any implications for the province.

Impaired Driving Initiatives

The Committee has previously expressed concern regarding the high incidence of impaired driving in PEI and advocated for a renewed focus on crime reduction and crime prevention initiatives to address this serious public safety issue.

On May 9, 2014, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal announced amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* to target repeat impaired drivers:

- increase mandatory ignition interlock device sentence for a second offence to five years if the blood alcohol level is over 0.16, and to 10 years for a 3rd and subsequent offence;
- establish "administrative probation" which tags the repeat offenders drivers license as someone who should not be behind the wheel with more than a 0.00 blood alcohol level;
- set a fine of $2,000 for violating administrative prohibition, as well as 12 demerits, which will automatically result in drivers license suspension; and
- introduce a specially coded license plate that third time offenders may apply for, along with administrative probation, if they complete five clean years of their mandatory 10 year ignition interlock sentence.

These amendments came into effect on July 7, 2014.

Development of a Court Order Registry for Protection Orders

Progress toward the establishment of a court order registry for police and court system access to protection orders in cases of family violence is of interest to the Committee. In October 2014, the Courts went live with the first phase of a registry for Court orders. The Registry contains all Emergency Protection Orders, Custody Orders, Probation Orders, and Undertakings to a Justice. The purpose of the registry is to allow the Provincial and Supreme Courts to have access to existing documentation in all courts.

Phase two of the Registry is currently being discussed with municipal police agencies and RCMP. This phase will allow officers to view court documents and determine which documents are current. For example, police agencies will be able to see the most recent custody order, and will also be able to scan documents into the system.

Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services (EESAS) Model

The Committee had discussions about hospital emergency room response in cases of sexual assault, and made inquiries as to how victims of sexual assault are triaged. Information was received regarding enhanced training currently being undertaken by emergency room nurses. This training is designed to enhance the capacity of nurses to respond to victims of sexual assault within their scope of practice. This is an online training module developed by Dr. Cathy Carter-Snell and offered through Mount Royal University. Thirteen PEI nurses have participated in the training to date.

Dr. Cathy Carty-Snell of Mount Royal University also visited PEI for three days of meetings with stakeholders, including police, Crown attorneys, Emergency Department staff from the Prince County and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, and victim serving organizations. Productive discussions helped to clarify roles, and come to agreements about implementation of enhanced sexual assault services at both hospitals. Sexual assault response protocols are currently under development, including protocols for anonymous sexual assault kits.

Guest Speakers

The Committee invited guest speakers on a number of topics:

- Jackie Doran-MacLeod, Adult Protection Consultant, provided a summary of recent changes to the *Adult Protection Act* which came into effect in February 2014, and gave an informative overview of current issues, services available and PEI statistics.

- Michelle MacCallum, Director of Youth and Parent Programs with Women's Network PEI presented on a recent project, *"Taking Stock of Cyberbullying: A Scan of the PEI Context"*, which was sponsored by the Department of Environment, Labour and Justice, funded by Justice Canada and coordinated by Women's Network. This work is intended to create a better understanding of the issue of cyberbullying on PEI and inform future actions. Michelle presented findings of the community consultations, needs assessment and environmental scan, as well as ideas for next steps. Copies of the document were distributed, and can be accessed at: ***http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/ELJ_CyberBully.pdf***

  Michelle introduced another project being undertaken by Women's Network and the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, with funding from Status of Women Canada: *"RESPECT Project - Preventing and Responding to Sexualized Violence in PEI"*. A needs assessment, consultations, and best practice review will help inform strategies to address the issue of sexual violence against women and girls.

Information Items

A number of information items were brought to the attention of the Victim Services Advisory Committee during the year. Some of these included:

- Legislative Updates:
  - amendments to federal and provincial legislation which have implications for victims and witnesses
  - Proposed Federal Victims Bill of Rights

- Research
  - PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre research project: *"Enhancing Services for Male Survivors of Sexual Trauma in PEI"*
  - Updates on research regarding the concept of a Therapeutic Court for PEI
  - *Taking Stock of Cyberbullying: A Scan of the PEI Context*
  - RESPECT Project: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in PEI

- Program/Policy Development/Training
  - Annual Training on Police Response to Family Violence
  - Family Violence Education for Interpreters
  - Men Matter Program - Group program for Male Survivors of Sexual Assault

- Conference Announcements:
  - Mind the Gap: A Closer Look at Violence, Resistance and Language - May 22-23, 2014
  - "From Conceptualization to Engagement": Conference on Male Sexual Victimization - April 14-15, 2014
  - Preventing Family Violence by Building Trauma Informed Community of Practice - May 28-29, 2014
  - Video conference: Social Isolation is a Risk Factor for Elder Abuse - June 9, 2014
  - National Child and Youth Care Conference - October 8-10, 2014
  - Aboriginal Justice Forum - October 17, 2014
  - Youth and Cyberbullying: Creating a Collaborative Response- Oct. 21, 2014
  - Integrated Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence: Learning and Innovating Together - October 20-22, 2014
  - Atlantic Circle Keeper's Training - November, 2014

- Awareness Initiatives:
  - Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence - December 2014
  - National Victims of Crime Awareness Week activities - April, 2014 and April 2015
  - Collaborative Practice PEI Information Session - May 15, 2014
  - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15, 2014
  - Sisters in Spirit Vigil - October 2, 2014
  - "Talk About it, Act on it" workshop focussing on ageism
  - *Lived Through This* - Book Launch: October 2014; Public Presentation April 2015
  - 5th Annual Evening of Wine and Song for Anderson House
  - Beyond Jian: A Community Meeting about Sexual Assault - January, 2015
  - "It's All About Youth" Program - a program for students about healthy relationships
  - Family Violence Prevention Week - February 14-20, 2015
  - Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls: Knowledge Sharing Workshop - March 3, 2015
  - It's Not Right! Changing Social Norms Regarding Abuse of Older Adults - April, 2015

- Federal/provincial initiatives
  - reports from meetings of the F/P/T Ministers of Justice; and the F/P/T Working Group on Victims of Crime
  - federal funding sources and criteria for victims of crime initiatives

- Statistics Canada Reports
  - Homicide in Canada, 2012
  - Police Reported Sexual Offences Against Children and Youth in Canada, 2012
  - Police Reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2013

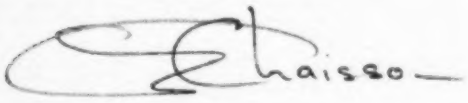
- New Publications:
  - Grandparents Parenting on PEI

- Other Information Items:
  - Information Sessions on "Best Interest of the Child in Custody and Access"
  - Presentations to Standing Committee on Health, Social Development and Seniors
  - Justice Options Project: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
  - Bold Vision Conference
  - Grandparents Support Group
  - Calls for National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
  - Muriel MacQueen Fergusson Foundation Awards to recognize the contributions of Sigrid Rolfe and Dr. Philip Smith toward preventing and eliminating family violence
  - PEI Psychological Association Humanitarian Award presented to Victim Services

The Committee recognized with sadness the passing of Diane Kays, Chair of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, who was also a member of the Victim Services Advisory Committee for the past two years. Diane was a strong advocate for change to improve the lives of others, and made a positive contribution to the work of the Committee.

The Committee also recognized the retirement of John Picketts, Director, Community and Correctional Services. Appreciation was expressed for John's leadership and commitment throughout his career toward the advancement of Community and Correctional Services in the province, and for his support of Victim Services and the Victim Services Advisory Committee. The Committee also recognized the retirement of Dianna Cudmore who provided excellent secretarial support to the Victim Services Advisory Committee for 15 years.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Chaisson, Chair

Part III

Report of the Victim Services Program

Victim Services has provided a criminal justice system-based service to victims of crime province-wide since April, 1989. The system-based approach has the following key attributes:

- operates within the criminal justice system, but independently from the police, Crown attorneys, or the courts;
- is client-centred;
- maintains close working relationships with criminal justice personnel and community agencies;
- assists victims of crime at all stages of the criminal justice process;
- uses an outreach approach.

Mandate

Section 7 of the *Victims of Crime Act* states that the purpose of Victim Services is:

a) to assist victims as needed throughout their contacts with the criminal justice system;
b) to help victims to access other needed services;
c) to receive applications for criminal injuries compensation and investigate claims on behalf of the Minister;
d) to assist with the preparation and filing of victim impact statements;
e) to assist justice personnel and community agencies in providing services to victims;
f) to promote the Statement of Principles set out in section 2 of the *Act*.

Mission Statement

Victim Services provides a client-centred service for victims of crime, ensuring respect for their dignity and privacy. Victim Services assists clients throughout their involvement with the criminal justice process.

Vision Statement

Victims Services' vision is that:

- all victims of crime on Prince Edward Island who require assistance through the criminal justice process will be referred at the earliest opportunity to Victim Services; and
- the response of all criminal justice personnel will be guided by the Statement of Principles in the *Victims of Crime Act*.

Goals

Victim Services goals are:

- to provide prompt, effective assistance to victims of crime, especially victims of crimes against the person, but not excluding any victim who needs assistance through the criminal justice process;
- to tailor the assistance provided to meet the needs of the particular client;
- to provide services to any victim of crime requiring assistance, regardless of their geographic location on Prince Edward Island;
- to investigate criminal injuries compensation claims and complete the case analysis for each claim as quickly as possible;
- by working collaboratively with the police and Crown attorneys, to ensure that all victims of crimes in which charges are laid are informed of their right to prepare and file a victim impact statement;
- to ensure that victims understand the implications of preparing and filing a victim impact statement and do so voluntarily;
- to promote the use of the *Victims of Family Violence Act* in appropriate cases.

Statistical Overview

Assistance provided to victims of crime includes:

- information about case status, the criminal justice system, and court procedures;
- emotional support and short term counselling;
- referrals for legal, financial and long term counselling services;
- assistance through the court process and with preparation of victim impact statements;
- investigation of applications for criminal injuries compensation; and
- assistance under the *Victims of Family Violence Act*.

Victim Services cases are categorized in the following classifications: general, sexual abuse, female partner abuse, other family abuse, and commercial/business. The percentage breakdown of new cases by case classification in 2014-2015, and a comparison with previous years, are noted as follows:

Victim Services New Cases

Type of Client	Per Cent Breakdown		
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
General*	44	49	46
Female Partner Abuse	28	25	28
Other Family Abuse	12	11	10
Sexual Abuse	7	8	7
Commercial/Business	9	7	9

** General includes break and enter, damage to property, theft, general assaults, impaired driving causing injury or death, etc.*

The following table illustrates the total and percentage of each type of case opened in 2014-2015. The table also indicates the police agency involved with each case.

Table I

Victim Case Classification: New Cases
2014-2015

Police Jurisdiction	General	Sexual Abuse	Female Partner Abuse	Other Family Abuse	Commercial/ Business	TOTAL
West Prince RCMP	12	6	13	12	0	43
Charlottetown PD	161	9	48	20	47	285
Queens District RCMP	46	8	38	11	12	115
Kensington PD	4	5	1	3	0	13
Montague RCMP	33	7	33	9	1	83
East Prince RCMP	19	5	24	8	0	56
Summerside PD	61	6	36	10	6	119
Souris RCMP	10	2	4	5	1	22
Out of Province/or Not Specified	9	2	15	0	0	26
Totals	**354**	**51**	**212**	**78**	**67**	**762**
Percentile	**46**	**7**	**28**	**10**	**9**	**100**

Caseload Trends

There were 762 new cases referred to Victim Services in 2014-2015, in addition to approximately 622 cases carried forward from the previous year. As of March 31, 2015, there were 491 active cases across the province. The average monthly caseload in 2014-2015 was 560 cases.

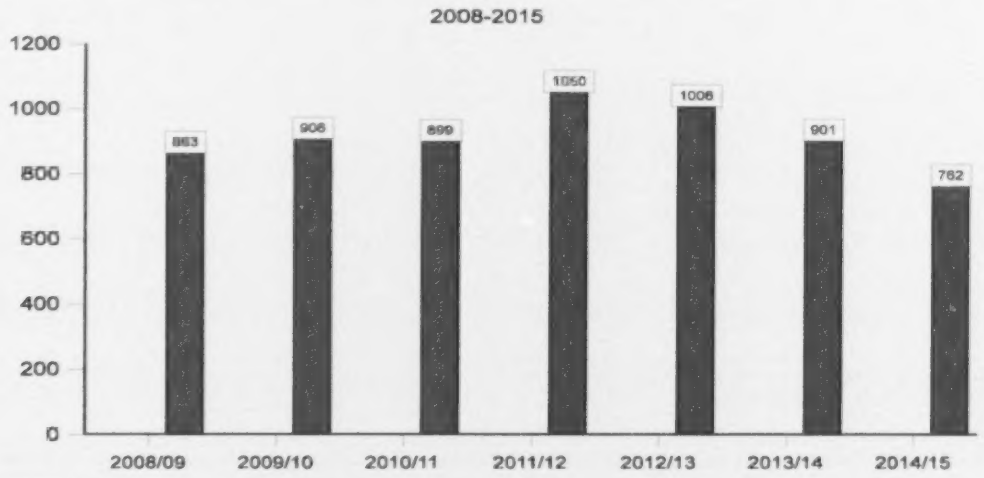


Figure 1

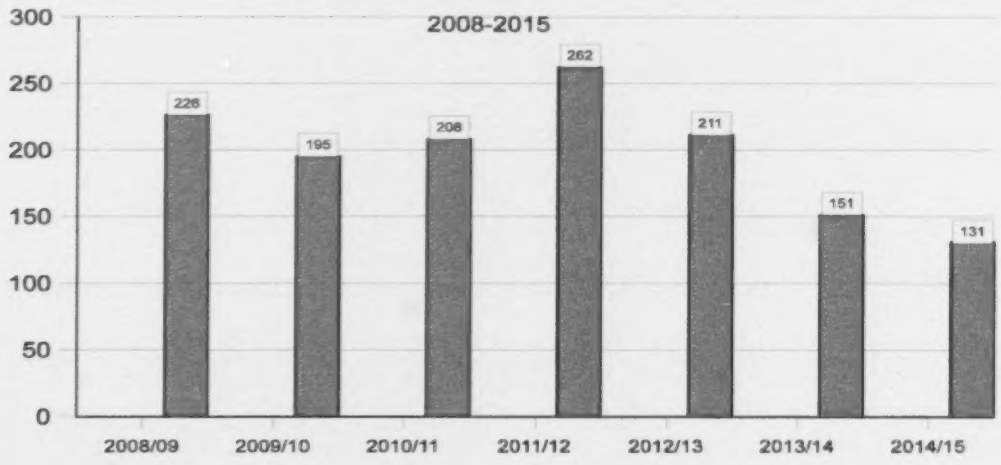
Rate of Reported Crime

Prince Edward Island's crime rate dropped in 2014, compared to the previous year. Declines were recorded in both the overall crime rate (-20%) and the Crime Severity Index (-17%). The Crime Severity Index (CSI)measures the volume and severity of police reported crime. The drop in CSI was driven primarily by fewer thefts of $5,000 or under, and fewer breaking and entering.

Victim Impact Statements

Victim Services is designated by Lieutenant Governor in Council as the program responsible for preparing and filing victim impact statements. Victim impact statements outline the physical, emotional, and financial effects of the crime on the victim. After determination of guilt, the judge takes victim impact statements into consideration when deciding on sentence.

In 2014-2015, there were 131 victim impact statements prepared and filed with the court. The trends since 2008 are illustrated in the graph below:



Offence Type and Offender Information

The most frequent types of crime for Victim Services cases in 2014-2015 were:

- assault (36 percent)
- theft (12 per cent)
- uttering threats (10 per cent)
- sexual assault (8 per cent)
- wilful damage (5 per cent)

Of the total new referrals to Victim Services in 2014-2015, there was a family type relationship between the victim and the suspect or offender in 194 cases (27 %). In 206 cases (28%), the suspect or offender was a male partner or ex-partner (either current or former husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend). In 14 cases (2%), the suspect or offender was a female partner or ex-partner (either current or former wife, common-law wife or girlfriend).

The proportion of Victim Services clients victimized by adult offenders compared with young offenders has been consistent over the years. In the new cases where an offender was identified, 93% percent of the offenders were adults, and 7% were youth.

Age Range and Gender of Victims

Age ranges of Victim Services' new clients were as follows:

under 12 years	2%
12 - 17 years	7%
18 - 40 years	41%
41 - 60 years	20%
61 years and over	6%
unknown/not recorded	24%

Sixty eight per cent of Victim Services' new clients were female, and 32 per cent were male.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Under the *Victims of Crime Act*, Victim Services is responsible for investigating claims for criminal injuries compensation. Victim Services staff also assist victims with preparing their applications and gathering information to support their claims. Victim Services staff prepare a case analysis regarding each claim.

Designated persons within the Legal Services Section of the Department of Justice and Public Safety are responsible for adjudicating claims and writing a report, including recommendations, to the Minister who makes decisions regarding claims.

During the fiscal year 2014-2015, 25 new applications for criminal injuries compensation were filed, and 106 applications were carried over from the previous year. Fifty eight final decisions and twelve interim decisions were made in 2014-2015. A total of $208,570 was awarded in criminal injuries compensation.

Further information and statistics regarding criminal injuries compensation are contained in Part IV of the Annual Report.

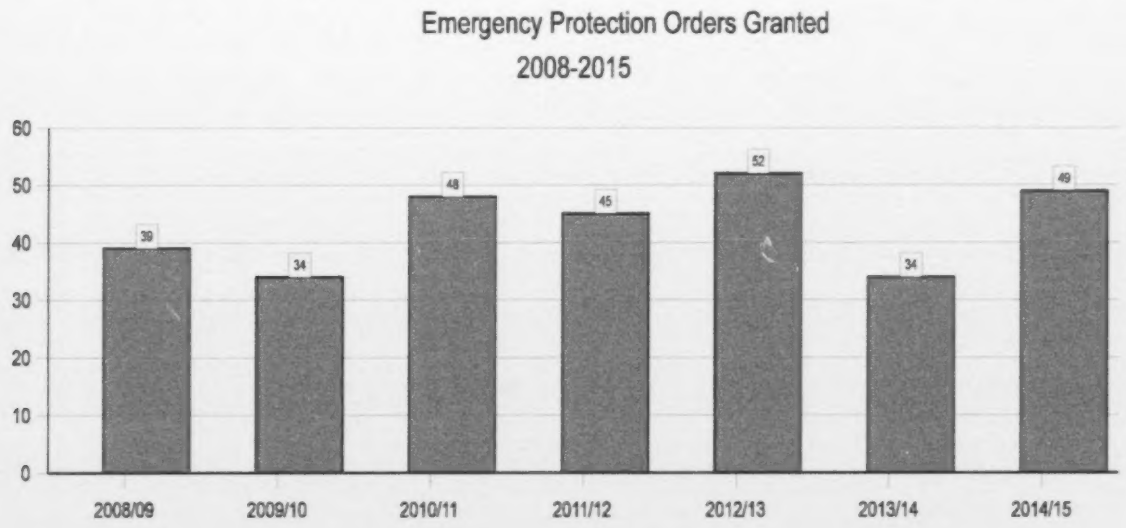
Victims of Family Violence Act

The *Victims of Family Violence Act* came into effect in December 1996. This provincial law addresses the need for victims to stay in their own homes, provides an additional remedy to supplement the Criminal Code, and enables the justice system to provide a more effective and timely response. Under this act, Emergency Protection Orders are available 24 hours/day from designated justices of the peace. In non-emergency situations, longer-term Victim Assistance Orders are available by application to the Supreme Court.

Victim Services staff assist with training and ongoing monitoring and promotion of the use of the *Victims of Family Violence Act*. Police officers and victim services workers are designated under the Act to make application for emergency protection orders.

In 2014-2015, there were 49 applications for Emergency Protection Orders under the *Victims of Family Violence Act*. Orders ranged from 10 days to 89 days in duration, with an average length of 58 days. There was one application for a Victim Assistance Order.

Since the proclamation of the Act in December 1996, there have been a total of 766 Emergency Protection Orders granted. The trends since 2008 are illustrated in the graph below:



A Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to assist in monitoring and training related to the Act. In partnership with the PEI Association of Chiefs of Police, the Steering Committee has continued to offer annual police training to implement a standardized response to reported incidents of domestic violence, and to enhance knowledge about risk factors and available options to protect victims.

Victim Services Program Highlights

- In April 2014, Victim Services received a Humanitarian Award from the Psychological Association of Prince Edward Island in recognition of "commitment and endeavours that have significantly enhanced the psychological health and well-being of Islanders".

- With funding support from the Federal Victims Fund, a five month Restitution Coordinator Pilot Project was initiated to improve processes that assist victims to obtain restitution.

- Additional funds were allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program in 2014-2015, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of claims awaiting adjudication.

- Ongoing efforts to address the needs of victims of sexual abuse included:
  - assisting in an advisory capacity to the implementation of a group program for male survivors of sexual abuse;
  - assisting in the development of Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services which includes enhanced training and protocols for health care providers in emergency room departments; and
  - participating in an advisory capacity to the *RESPECT Project: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in PEI.*

- Efforts continued to strengthen linkages with minority and multicultural groups, including awareness raising initiatives in partnership with newcomer, francophone and aboriginal communities; and participation in a project *"Supporting Immigrant Women and Girls Experiencing Violence".*

Committee Participation

An important aspect of the work of Victim Services involves maintaining cooperative working relationships with other criminal justice and community agencies to coordinate case management and to effect positive long term change for victims of crime. Staff participated in committees at various levels involving national, provincial, regional, divisional and community initiatives.

At the Federal/Provincial/Territorial level, the Provincial Manager participated on:

- FPT Victims of Crime Working Group
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Violence - Linking Criminal and Family Justice Systems.

Victim Services is represented on community and criminal justice based committees involving work in the area of family violence, sexual abuse, cultural and societal issues. These committees include:

- Steering Committee - *Victims of Family Violence Act*
- Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention
- Justice Options for Women who are Victims of Domestic Violence
- Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Committee
- High Risk Offender Committee
- Planning Committee for Aboriginal Justice Forum
- Atlantic Region Victims Advisory Committee, Correctional Services Canada/Parole Board of Canada.
- Social Action Plan to Reduce Poverty Working Group
- Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Project Advisory Committee
- RESPECT Project: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in PEI - Advisory Committee

As part of the Community and Correctional Services Division, Victim Services staff were involved in a number of Departmental and Divisional initiatives including:

- Divisional Wellness Committee
- Occupational Health and Safety Committee

Education and Training

Victim Services staff participated in various education and training initiatives including:

- Mind the Gap: A Closer Look at Violence, Resistance and Language
- "From Conceptualization to Engagement": Conference on Male Sexual Victimization
- Preventing Family Violence by Building a Trauma Informed Community of Practice
- Beyond Jian: A Community Meeting about Sexual Assault
- Understanding Compassion Fatigue
- Correctional Services Canada/Parole Board of Canada Information Sessions
- Joint training on Native Council of PEI programs and launch of "Red Road Program"
- Aboriginal Justice Forum
- Mindfulness Focussed Trauma Therapy
- Working with Addicted Survivors of Trauma
- Managing in Tough Times
- Building Safe Communities for People with Disabilities
- Records Information Management
- Mental Health First Aid
- Suicide Prevention
- Honouring our Differences - Gender and Diversity Workshop
- *Taking Stock of Cyberbullying: A Scan of the PEI Context*

Public Education

Victim Services staff participate in opportunities to promote awareness and understanding of issues related to crime, victimization, victims' rights and available services. Presentations during the fiscal year 2014-2015 included:

- Police Training on *Victims of Family Violence Act*
- Human Services Program - Holland College
- Youth Addictions Strength Program
- UPEI/ Holland College Resident Life Advisors
- Family Violence Education for Interpreters
- Public Services Commission Training Sessions on Family Violence Education
- Atlantic Circle Keeper's Training - *Restorative Justice: A Victims Voice*
- Professional Development Training for Social Assistance Staff
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital - Law and Forensics Workshop

Staffing

Victim Services Offices are located in Charlottetown and Summerside.

Personnel as of March 31, 2015 include:

Provincial Manager	Susan Maynard
Victim Services Workers	Darlene Oatway Paula Finkle (backfilling for Jean Profit) Joy Coffin Ev Marshall Linda MacAulay Kellie MacQueen Carolyn Peters Georgina Bowness
Admin Support	Dianna Cudmore Jennifer Roberts

Part IV
Criminal Injuries Compensation Program

Introduction

Criminal injuries compensation is the payment of money from public funds to compensate victims of crime for pain and suffering and expenses resulting from injury or death caused by certain crimes. Criminal injuries compensation is a fund of last resort, such that other means of compensation or reimbursement are to be sought first.

Authority for Prince Edward Island's Criminal Injuries Compensation Program is contained in Part IV of the *Victims of Crime Act*, which was proclaimed in force September 30, 1989. Amendments to Part IV which came into effect August 7, 1999 were designed to further simplify and speed up the process for assessing compensation claims.

The *Victims of Crime Act* is not retroactive; criminal injuries compensation can only be awarded in respect of an injury or death resulting from a crime that occurred after September 30, 1989.

Values

Criminal injuries compensation is one means to take action on principle (b) from the Statement of Principles in the *Victims of Crime Act*, which states "victims should receive prompt and fair financial redress for the harm they have suffered."

Summary of the Legislation

In general, a claim for criminal injuries compensation may arise in the event of injury or death by an act that occurred in Prince Edward Island, and that injury or death must have directly resulted from the commission of a criminal offence prescribed in the regulations under the *Victims of Crime Act*. The applicant need not be a resident of Prince Edward Island.

The term "injury" is specifically defined in the *Victims of Crime Act* to mean actual bodily harm, including emotional trauma or pregnancy resulting from sexual assault, and mental or nervous shock. If a person suffers only property damage or loss as a result of a prescribed crime, he or she is not eligible for criminal injuries compensation. It is not necessary that anyone be prosecuted or convicted for the crime, but an award may be delayed pending the outcome of the criminal process. A determination of guilt is conclusive evidence that an offence has been committed.

Eligible Applicants

The Minister may order criminal injuries compensation

1. to or for the benefit of the victim;
2. to any person, in respect of financial loss suffered by or expenses incurred by that person as the result of the death or injury of the victim;
3. to any one or more of the dependants of the victim.

Compensable Losses

Compensable losses include:

1. reasonable expenses incurred or likely to be incurred as a result of the victim's injury or death;
2. financial losses resulting from total, partial or temporary disability affecting the victim's capacity for work;
3. financial loss to dependents resulting from the victim's death;
4. pain and suffering;
5. maintenance of a child born as a result of sexual assault;
6. financial loss incurred in respect of grief or sorrow as a result of the victim's death; and

7. other financial loss resulting from the victim's injury, and any other expense that, in the opinion of the minister or, in the case of a small claim, in the opinion of a designated person, it was reasonable to incur.

Maximum Award

The maximum amount payable to **all applicants** in respect of the injury or death of **one victim** is $15,000. The maximum amount payable to **all applicants** in respect of **one occurrence** (that is, one incident resulting in injury or death to more than one victim) is $30,000. The award cannot exceed these limits.

Volume of Applications

During the fiscal year 2014-2015, 25 new applications for criminal injuries compensation were filed, and 106 applications were carried over from the previous year. Fifty eight final decisions and twelve interim decisions were made in 2014-2015. A total of $208,570 was awarded in criminal injuries compensation.

The following statistical tables summarize the criminal injuries compensation program during 2014-2015:

Table II
Applications – Statistical Summary
April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

New applications filed	25
Applications carried over from last year	106
Variation applications	0
Appeals	0
Total	**131**
Decisions made:	
award denied	0
full award granted	55
interim award	12
reduced award	3
variation	0
Total	**70**
Withdrawn applications	5
Files closed (final awards)	63
Files carried forward to next fiscal year	68

Table III
Categories of Victims
(Based on Final and Interim Awards)
April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Types of Victims	Number
General	41
Other family abuse	0
Sexual abuse	20
Female partner abuse	9
Total	**70**

Table IV
Crimes Involved in Final Awards Granted
April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Criminal Code Section	Number of Awards
151 (sexual interference)	3
235 (murder)	1
264 (criminal harassment)	1
266 (assault)	8
267 (assault with weapon/causing bodily harm)	29
268 (aggravated assault)	1
271 (sexual assault)	14
273 (aggravated sexual assault)	1
Total	**58**

Table V
Reasons for Reduced and/or Denied Awards
April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Reason	Reduced	Denied
Crime not covered by regulations	0	0
Criminal offence not proven	0	0
Victim culpability/ contributory behaviour	3	0
Victim engaged in unlawful activity	0	0
Loss recovered from other sources	0	0
Total	**3**	**0**

Table VI Compensation Ordered* April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015	
Pain and suffering	$ 150,884
Expenses	$ 57,686
Total Awarded	$ 208,570

*Note: Compensation ordered in one fiscal year may be paid out in a different fiscal year (e.g., for dental expenses).

Table VII Age and Gender of Victims (Based on Final and Interim Awards) April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015	
Age	No. of Victims
under 10	1
11-20	30
21-30	18
31-40	7
41-50	5
51-60	7
61-70	2
71 +	0
Total	**70**
Gender	
Female	33
Male	37
Total	70

Part V

Victim Assistance Fund

Victim Services Summary of Revenue and Expenditures

	Budget Amount	Actual Year Ended March 31, 2015	Projects
Revenue			
Victim Surcharge			
- federal offences	45,000	64,757	
- provincial offences	225,000	183,826	
Donations/honorarium	0	0	
Restitution/civil suit reimbursement	0	921	
Victims of Crime Fund (Justice Canada)	263,400	201,837	201,837*
Total Revenue	**533,400**	**451,341**	**201,837**
Minus Project Revenue		201,837	
		249,504	

Note:

* Revenue was received from the Victims of Crime Fund, Justice Canada, in the amount of $201,837 for training initiatives and two projects:
Victim Services Worker - Queens County
Victim Services Worker - Western Region

Victim Services Summary of Revenue and Expenditures

	Budget Amount	Actual Year Ended March 31, 20145	Projects
Expenditures			
Administration	13,200	9,371	1,184
Equipment	2,500	600	625
Materials/supplies	4,500	2,632	0
Professional/Contract Services	21,200	21	0
Salaries/benefits	756,400	678,002	194,460
Travel and training	18,000	19,097	5,568
Criminal Injuries Compensation	100,000	197,036	0
Victim Assistants Fees	0	165	0
Total Expenditures	**915,800**	**906,924**	**201,837**
Minus Project Expenditures		201,837	
		705,087	

Note:
Project expenditures were for Victim Services projects listed above.

Accounting Procedures:
All revenues and expenditures related to Victim Services are recorded in the accounts of the Province and included in the Public Accounts.

2015

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